

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TOKYO 06709 090855Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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S E C R E T TOKYO 6709

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, KS, US, JA
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

REF: A. TOKYO 6661; B. STATE 104886; C. TOKYO 6660

1. IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AMERICAN AFFAIRS
DIRGEN YAMAZAKI MAY 9, HE INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD
RELAYED SUBSTANCE OF OUR MAY 8 CONVERSATION (REFTEL)A)
TO VICE MINISTER SATO, WHO IN TURN HAD MET WITH
CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER
SONODA EARLY IN MORNING OF MAY 9. SONODA HAD DECIDED
THAT CONFIRMATION OF DATES FOR BROWN/HABIB VISIT
COULD NOT BE GIVEN PRIOR TO RETURN OF PM FUKUDA AND
HAD THEREFORE INSTRUCTED YAMAZAKI TO REQUEST THAT
IF DEPARTMENT MUST MAKE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AT NOON
MAY 10 WASHINGTON TIME, REFERENCE TO TOKYO VISIT
BE OMITTED (I.E. REF B, FINAL SENTENCE OF PROPOSED
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT).

2. YAMAZAKI ASSURED ME THAT, AS DEPUTY MINISTER ARITA
HAD STATED ON MAY 7, FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD ENDEAVOR TO
PROVIDE ON MAY 11 TOKYO TIME CONFIRMATION OF BROWN/HABIB
VISIT TO TOKYO ON DATES PROPOSED (REF C). HE COULD
NOT BE CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT THIS COULD BE DONE. HE

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EXPLAINED THAT A NUMBER OF ISSUES CURRENTLY FACE
GOVERNMENT WHICH REQUIRE CAREFUL HANDLING INCLUDING,
IN ADDITION TO DIET EXTENSION, DIET CONSIDERATION OF
ROK-JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF TREATY, VISIT OF NORTH
KOREAN PRIVATE TRADE DELEGATION (ARRIVING MAY 11) AND
OKINAWAN LAND LAW BILL. PM FUKUDA, THEREFORE, WILL
HAVE TO CONSULT WITH LDP AND DIET LEADERSHIP ON TIMING

OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISCUSSIONS ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL IN
RELATION TO POSSIBLE IMPACT ON THESE ISSUES. I
INFERRED FROM YAMAZAKI'S REMARKS THAT HE FELT THAT
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP MIGHT FINALLY DECIDE TO REQUEST
THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF BROWN/HABIB VISIT BE DEFERRED
UNTIL SOME LATER TIME AFTER THESE OTHER ISSUES ARE
MORE FIRMLY IN HAND.

3. IF IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON
MAY 10 AS PRESENTLY PLANNED, I RECOMMEND DELETION
OF LAST SENTENCE AS REQUESTED BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER
SONODA. IF ASKED, WE COULD SAY THAT IT HAS NOT YET
BEEN DECIDED WHETHER BROWN AND HABIB WILL VISIT TOKYO
AFTER SEOUL. GOJ WOULD TAKE SAME LINE IF ASKED, EXPLAINING
IF NECESSARY, THAT CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION OF TOKYO
VISIT HAD TO AWAIT RETURN OF PM FUKUDA AND FOREIGN
MINISTER HATOYAMA FROM LONGON.

4. I WOULD RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT IF POSSIBLE WE
DELAY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL NOON MAY 11 WASHINGTON
TIME TO ALLOW FOR POSSIBILITY THAT WE CAN OBTAIN GOJ
CONFIRMATION BY THAT TIME. IF NOT, AND FURTHER DELAY
NOT POSSIBLE, WE COULD THEN MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT AS
SUGGESTED PARA 3 ABOVE.

5. IN MY CONVERSATION WITH YAMAZAKI I PROBED TO
ASCERTAIN WHETHER HE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT POLITICAL
LEADERSHIP MIGHT CONCLUDE THAT VISIT OF BROWN/HABIB
ON DATES PROPOSED WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNWISE.

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YAMAZAKI DID NOT SEEM TO CONSIDER THIS LIKELY, AND
HE KEPT COMING BACK ONLY TO PROBLEMS OF TIMING OF
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.
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